

Members of the Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology's Digital Learning Advisory Council recommend the Commission adopt and share the following resolution with the appropriate branches of government.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING ONGOING SUPPORT FOR DIGITAL LEARNING IN CONNECTICUT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, local and regional school districts have faced enormous challenges in providing students with equitable access to a high-quality education during the last two years of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, such districts have rapidly adopted and invested in technology (devices, connectivity, software, and professional development) to make learning opportunities available to students; and

WHEREAS, such districts face concerns regarding the rising costs of providing the equipment, connectivity, learning software, and professional development necessary for learning, as state and federal relief funds end; and

WHEREAS, such districts provide critical Adult Education services for Adult High School diploma, English as a Second Language and Citizenship students who require the digital literacy skills necessary to function in modern society.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology encourages the Governor, the Connecticut General Assembly, and the State Board of Education to continue supporting the use of technology in education. We encourage the state government to continue to support districts overwhelmed by the increased costs of technology and make these specific requests:

Office of Governor Lamont

- Ensure adequate funding to supply necessary and dedicated technology in the form of devices and networking equipment as well as high-speed broadband to support teaching and learning inside and out of school
- Continue support for the capital needs of the Connecticut Education Network (CEN) to keep schools, universities, libraries, and other CEN member institutions safely connected to learning resources
- Provide the resources to ensure that educators receive the professional development and ongoing support necessary for them to teach effectively in online and blended learning environments
- Support the use of open education resources through the Commission's Go Open CT site, providing equitable access to high-quality instructional materials for teachers and professors across the state

Connecticut General Assembly

- Ensure that current statute pertaining to K – 12 and Adult Learners provides both the assurance and funding to support the attainment of digital literacy skills
- Commit sustained appropriations to ensure that all residents have an opportunity to attain digital learning competencies to engage fully in learning and fully participating in today's digital society

Connecticut State Board of Education

- Provide leadership and a voice for continuing the move from an analog world to one seamlessly integrating traditional education with digital learning

DRAFT